

**ELECTIVE STERILIZATION AND REVERSAL
(TUBAL LIGATION AND VASECTOMY)**

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive revises VHA policy on elective sterilization.
- 2. MAJOR CHANGE:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided elective sterilization (e.g., vasectomy or tubal ligation procedures) when requested by the patient and approved by the patient's physician. This Directive allows, in addition, the surgical reversal of sterilization.
- 3. RELATED ISSUE:** None.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Director, Women Veterans Health Program (133), is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions are to be addressed to the Women Veterans Health Program at (202) 273-8577.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Directive 1102.2, dated January 1999, is rescinded. *NOTE: VHA Directive 1102.2, dated January 1999, rescinded only the part of M-2, Part XIV, Chapter 9, dealing with the issue of sterilization.*
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This document is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day in July 2009.

S/ Arthur S. Hamerschlag for
Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP
Acting Under Secretary for Health

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1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive revises VHA policy on elective sterilization. *NOTE: VHA Directive 1102.2, dated January 1999, rescinded only the part of M-2, Part XIV, Chapter 9, dealing with the issue of sterilization.*

2. POLICY: It is VHA policy to provide elective sterilization (e.g., vasectomy or tubal ligation procedures) and surgery to reverse elective sterilization to eligible veterans as part of contraceptive services.

3. ACTION: All VA Medical Center Directors, or designees, are responsible for ensuring signature for informed consent prior to surgery. Consent must be obtained from the patient, or other authorized surrogate, as specified in VHA Handbook 1004.1.

4. REFERENCE

- a. Title 38 United States Code 1710 and 7331,
- b. Title 38 Code of Federal Regulation 17.32, and
- c. Federal Register, Volume 64, pages 54206 and 54207, dated Oct. 6, 1999.